

EDA

PLAIN

LONDON

Dated October 16, 1939

Received 1 p.m.

*Am. S. Acadia*

*State*

Secretary of State

Washington

2054, sixteenth, 4 p.m.

We have received the following cable from Consul Smale in Cork regarding crew difficulties on the ACADIA:

"ACADIA arrived Cobh with distinctly recalcitrant crew due to deprivation shore leave France and England, contention between negroes and whites, inability of master to have selected crew most of whom were not salt water seamen, inability of officers to maintain discipline, and uncertainty about reasons for delay in return to the United States.

"Many of crew went ashore Saturday night and eleven were jailed resulting in instructions from Chief Irish Immigration Officer, Cobh to prohibit any shore leaves this port. Master telephonically reported insubordination and incipient mutiny to me Sunday. I proceeded to vessel and unbeknown to passengers addressed sober members of crew in hold of vessel and explained their rights and obligations and my duty and authority. On basis of promise to procure reasonable shore liberty to be worked out with local

officials,

*Irishland*

*28*

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officials, master and crew representatives with myself received assurance of the most unruly crew members that insubordination would cease.

"following this, system of passes was authorized and inaugurated and although feeling among both crew and passengers remained tense until sailing, no drastic action which conceivably could have tied up ACADIA developed.

"To instill confidence among passengers and discipline among crew Consulate arranged dinner aboard ACADIA with master tenth instant, attended by American Minister, two military officers and civic guard officer all in uniform, a representative of civic bodies, Vice Consul Patterson and myself with extremely beneficial effect.

"Passengers, officers and crew apparently content at time of departure. No untoward incident anticipated in voyage. Difficulties with crew known to representative members of passengers and to officials and others Cork and Cobh but unreported in press".

WE have also received letters from responsible people indicating that conditions are even worse than Smale implies.

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KENNEDY

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